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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 HA-05 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12
NEAE-00 IO-13 /101 W
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O R 221518Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5726
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PGOV, SOPN, SY, XF
SUBJECT: SYRIA HINTS AT READINESS TO JOIN REJECTIONIST BLOC

1. SYRIAN MEDIA HAVE CONTINUED THE INTENSE CAMPAIGN AGAINST PRESIDENT SADAT. AL-BAATH, ONLY PAPER PUBLISHED NOV 22, IS TOTALLY DEVOTED TO DENUNCIATIONS OF THE VISIT. IMPRESSION CREATED IS ONE OF INTENSE SYRIAN DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO FORAGE
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ARAB BLOC TO CONFRONT SADAT.

2. FONMIN KHADDAM QUOTED AS SAYING THAT HIS AND ASSAD'S MEETINGS WITH LIBYAN PREMIER JALLUD WERE CONTINUED IN AN "ATMOSPHERE OF COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING" ON ALL TOPICS DF SCUSSED IN TALKS WHICH LASTED OVER FOUR HOURS. KHADDAM FURTHER QUOTED IN REFERENCE TO JALLUD'S VISIT AS SAYING, "THE STEPS AND ACTIONS

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TO BE TAKEN TO DEAL WITH THIS GRAVE DEVIATION MADE BY SADAT HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED." MEETING JALLUD HELD WITH MEMBERS OF PLO EXCOMM WHO WERE PRESENT IN DAMASCUS ALSO REPORTED. MORE OMINOUS WAS INCLUSION OF REMARKS BY "WELL-INFORMED PALESTINIAN SOURCES THAT CONTACTS ON THE HIGHEST LEVELS UNDERWAY AMONG SYRIA, LIBYA, ALGERIA, IRAQ, AND THE PLO TO CONFRONT THE CHALLENGES SADAT HAD IMPOSED ON THE ARAB NATION, PARTICULARLY REGARDMCG HIS RECOGNI-TION OF THE ZIONIST ENTITY. THESE SOURCES EMPHASIZED THAT THE CURRENT CONTACTS SEEK TO ESTABLISH AN ARAB REJECTION FRONT TO BRING ABOUT A UNIFIED POSITION REGARDING FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS ARISING FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF SADAT'S VISIT TO OCCUPIED ARAB JERUSALEM." THESE SAME SOURCES EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH THE FRONT WOULD SUCCEED, CALLING FORMATION OF SUCH A FRONT A "PRESSING PAN-ARAB NECESSITY." THE ARTICLE CONCLUDED WITH THE REPORT THAT PREMIER JALLUD WAS IN BAGHDAD.

3. OTHER FRONT PAGE ARTICLES DEALT WITH MEETINGS BETWEEN ALGERIAN PRESIDENT HOUARI BOUMEDIENNE AND THE SYRIAN AMBASSADOR TO ALGERIA IN WHICH BOUMEDIENNE AFFIRMED TO HIM "ALGERIA'S PRINCIPLED STAND ON THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT," AND BETWEEN KHADDAM AND PALESTINIAN DELEGATION WHICH INCLUDED FAROUK QADDUMI, ABDUL MUHSIN ABU MAYZAR, MUHAMMAD ZUHDI NASHASHIBI, SALAH KHALAF, YASSIR ABD RABBO, SALAH RA'FAT, TALAL NAJI, AND HABIB QAHWAJI ON EVENING OF NOV 22. THE MEETING WAS ALSO ATTENDED ON THE SYRIAN SIDE BY AIR FORCE COMMANDER NAJI JAMIL AND COS HIKMAT SHIHABI AND SAID TO HAVE DEALT WITH SYRO-
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PALESTINIAN COORDINATION IN LIGHT OF SADAT'S VISIT TO ISRAEL.

4. AL-BAATH FILLED ITS INNER PAGES WITH DENUNCIATIONS OF SADAT FROM SYRIA, THE ARAB COUNTRIES, AND BEYOND. ONE PAGE FILLED WITH PHOTOS OF SADAT BEAMING AT VARIOUS ISRAELI LEADERS. UNSETTLING INTERVIEW APPEARED WITH MAXIMOS HAKIM, PATRIARCH OF THE GREEK

CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE MIDDLE EAST. HAKIM QUOTED AS SAYING THAT IF THE VISIT FAILS TO PRODUCE RESULTS IT WILL SHOW THAT "SADAT HAS GONE ABSOLUTELY MAD. IT WILL CREATE ADDITIONAL DIFFICULTIES FOR EGYPT AND THE ARAB COUNTRIES." IN AN ANTI-SEMITIC DIATRIBE HAKIM ALLEGEDLY ADDED: "WHOEVER KNOW THE JEWS AND THEIR TRICKERY AND DECEPTION KNOWS THAT ALL THE SIGNS ARE THAT SADAT HAS SOLD HIMSELF AND HIS COUNTRY TO THE MEGALOMANIA AND ILLUSIONS OFFERED HIM BY CEAUSESCU AND THE ZIONISTS' KISSINGER." (COMMENT: BEFORE HIS ELEVAOOV TO PATRIARCH, HAKIM WAS BISHOP OF HAIFA AND WAS LONG SUSPECT BY SARG AS PRO-ZIONIST.)

5. NEW PLATEAU IN CONDEMNING VISIT WAS REACHED BY DAMASCUS RADIO'S 1230 ZULU POLITICAL COMMENTARY IN WHICH THE COMMENTATOR CALLED UPON THE ARAB AND EGYPTIAN MASSES "TO BRING DOWN THE

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SADAT REGIME." HE CLAIMED THAT SADAT'S VISIT WOULD INEVITABLY LEAD TO MUTUAL RECOGNITION BY THE "ZIONIST ENTITY AND THE SADAT REGIME." EDITORIALS IN AL-BAATH WERE SOMEWHAT LESS VITRIOLIC. FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL CLAIMED THAT SADAT HAD IGNORED THE EGYPTIAN CONSTITUTION AND EGYPTIAN LAW STIPULATING THAT CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY IS A CRIME PUNISHABLE BY DEATH. EDITORIAL NOTED SADAT'S STATEMENT THAT HE DOES NOT ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE HIS VIEW ON ANYONE NOR DOES HE EXPECT ANYONE TO IMPOSE HIS VIEW UPON HIM. IT SAID THAT WHILE THIS MIGHT BE ALL RIGHT FOR MATTERS CONCERNING ONL SSADAT, IT WAS UNACCEPTABLE FOR AN ACT OF THIS MAGNITUDE. IT ASKED RHETORICALLY, "HOW CAN WE ASK FRIENDLY STATES NOT TO RECOGNIZE ISRAEL AND TO BOYCOTT IT WHEN THE LEADER OF THE LARGEST ARAB STAT; RECOGNIZES ISRAEL AND JERUSALEM AS ITS CAPITAL." ANOTHER BAATH EDITORIAL NOTED THAT SADAT HOPED TO
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OVERCOME THE PSYCHOLOGICAL ECOMPLEXES INHERENT IN THE ARAB-ISRAELI STRUGGLE AND STATED: "WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY TO HIM THAT OUR HATRED (FOR HIM) HAS INCREASED AFTER HIS TREACHEROUS VISIT TO ISRAEL, NOT TOWARDS ISRAEL'S WAR CRIMINALS ALONE, BUT FOR HIM PERSONALLY AS WELL". IT WENT ON TO SAY THAT WHILE SADAT'S VISIT HAD ENDED, HIS "JOURNEY OF TREACHERY" IS STILL CONTINUING.

6. COMMENT: THE SYRIAN MEDIA ARE GIVING NO SIGN THAT THIS CAMPAIGN AGAINST SADAT WILL SOON END. IMZUURRENT ATMOSPHERE, NOT SURPRISING THAT THE SPECTRE OF A SYRIAN-SUPPORTED REJEC-TIONIST FRONT IS BEING RESURRECTED. VOLATILITY OF ARAB ALLIANCES IS GIVEN STARK CONFIRMATION BY THE QUICK ABOUT-FACE MEDIA IS DOING ON POSSIBILITY OF SYRIAN-IRAQI COOPERATION WHEN LESS THAN A WEEK AGO IT WAS DENOUNCING THE IRAQI REGIME FOR SPONSORING TERRORISM IN SYRIA. THE MORAL IS THAT DESPITE THE SCATHING SYRIAN CRITICISM DIRECTED AT SADAT RECONCILIATION WITH HIM WILL BE POSSIBLE IF SUFFICIENT INCENTIVE IS DEEMED BPS EXIST.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 22-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 497989
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SYRIA HINTS AT READINESS TO JOIN REJECTIONIST BLOC
TAGS: PGOV, SOPN, SY, XF, (SADAT, ANWAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/23972e14-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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